

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

US MISSION GENEVA 4703

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, SOCI

SUBJECT: BRITISH PRESS STATEMENT ON 33D HUMAN RIGHTS

COMMISSION ACTION ON UGANDA

1. TRANSMITTED BELOW IS THE TEXT OF THE UN OPI
PRESS BRIEFING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, REPORTING THE
UK STATEMENT CONCERNING ACTION BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION ON UGANDA.

QUOTE

BRITISH BRIEFING (BRIGHTY)

HE READ OUT THE FOLLOWING, WHICH HAS ALSO BEEN RELEASED
IN LONDON: IT IS A STATEMENT FROM SECRETARY OF STATE
DR. OWEN - ON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ACTION YESTERDAY
ON UGANDA.

"I AM DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED THAT OUR PROPOSAL MADE UNDER A
CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURE FOR A INVESTIGATION OF THE
HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN UGANDA WAS NARROWLY DEFEATED
IN GENEVA YESTERDAY. I REGARD THE RESOLUTION WHICH WAS
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ADOPTED AS INSUFFICIENTLY FIRM, FAR REACHING, OR EFFECTIVE.
THIS LEAVES US WITH NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO BRING FOR A
INVESTIGATION IN OPEN DEBATE WHICH IS DUE TO TAKE PLACE
SHORTLY. OUR PROPOSAL DID ACT WITH, BUT RATHER WIDER
THAN, THE U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL'S CALL FOR AN
IMPARTIAL INVESTIGATION OF THE RECENT DEATH OF THE
ARCHBISHOP AND TWO OTHERS."

IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS HE SAID THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
ACTED UNDER ECOSOC RESOLUTION 1503 WHICH PROVIDES FOR
DISCUSSION OF CERTAIN HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN CONFIDENTIAL CIR-
CUMSTANCES. HE SAID THAT THE MEASURE TO REJECT VOTING ON THE
BRITISH PROPOSAL WAS NARROWLY DEFEATED, AND IT WAS AGREED
TO VOTE ON ANOTHER PROPOSAL AND HE WOULDN'T SAY WHAT THE
VOTE WAS ON THAT OR WHO SPONSORED IT, AND VOTED FOR OR
AGAINST IT* HE SAID HE COULDN'T BREACH THE CONSTITUTIONALITY
OF THE SECRET SESSION BY SAYING MORE. HE SAID THE BRITISH
OBJECTIVE WAS TO GET THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO LOOK
AT WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN UGANDA AND WHAT IS HAPPENING;
THAT THIS HAS BEEN FRUSTRATED, BUT BEFORE VERY LONG PROBABLY
BY THE END OF THE WEEK BRITAIN WILL BRING IT UP AGAIN IN
OPEN FORUM. HE SAID THAT ECOSOC 1503 PROVIDES FOR AN IN-
VESTIGATION OF SUCH HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS, THE MECHANISM
UNDER WHICH A UN BODY SHOULD ACT. UNQUOTE
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